

## Press Release

# Advocates for EMS Established, Elects Founding Officers



(December 17, 2002) The National Association of EMS Physicians and the National Association of State EMS Directors established a new not-for-profit organization, "Advocates for EMS" to promote emergency medical services (EMS), educate elected and appointed officials and the public on issues of importance to EMS, monitor and influence EMS legislation and regulatory activity, and raise awareness among decision-makers on issues of importance to EMS.

A priority for the group is to ascertain EMS's role and function in the Department of Homeland Security, and secure dedicated funding for the EMS infrastructure. A third current legislative priority is to ensure that EMS has a fair chance at the state level to receive a share of terrorism preparedness and response funding, which likely will be distributed at the discretion of the governors. A set-aside requirement is the optimal mechanism to ensure adequate funding for EMS at the state level.

The Advocates for EMS Board of Directors recently elected the first officers for their new organization:

**President** - Rick Hunt, MD, FACEP, Chair, Dept. of Emergency Medicine, SUNY Upstate Medical University, Syracuse, NY and NAEMSP President

**President-elect** – Mark King, WV State EMS Director and NASEMSD President

**Secretary** – Mary Hedges, MN State EMS Director and NASEMSD Government Affairs Chair

**Treasurer** – Bob Bass, MD, FACEP, Maryland State EMS Director and NAEMSP President-Elect

The first in-person Advocates Board meeting will occur Thursday, January 16, 2003 at the Marriott Bay Point Resort in Panama City Beach, FL in conjunction with the 2003 NAEMSP Annual Meeting.

Annual dues of \$2,000 were established for organizational membership, and a tiered sponsorship program will be established for corporate supporters. Individual membership will also be offered, and a grassroots recruitment campaign will be advanced after the benefits package is thoroughly defined. See [www.naemsp.org](http://www.naemsp.org) or [www.nasemsd.org](http://www.nasemsd.org) for more information about the effort and to learn how to be involved.

Donations can be sent to Advocates for EMS, P.O. Box 15945-281, Lenexa, KS, 66285-5945. The Advocates for EMS is incorporated in the District of Columbia under Internal Revenue Service Code 501 (c) (3). Check with your tax advisor to determine if donation is tax-deductible.

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